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WARRIORS HIT ICE WEDNESDAY IN DEFENCE OF QUEBEC CROWN

Can it be a rebuilding year when you only lose four seniors? According to Loyola coach Dave Draper, it can be! The Quebec intercollegiate champion Warriors open training camp Wednesday, and competition will be keen among the 40 players vying for 18 openings.

Lost through graduation are perennial stars Chris Hayes, now with Oklahoma City Blazers, John Hutton (Fort Wayne Komets), and Bill Doyle and Mike Thomassin, both expected to suit up with McGill Redmen this year. This is a lot of experience to lose in one fell swoop, so reasons the affable Draper. "We lost only four through graduation, but we lost much more in experience. However, I wouldn't say there are only four openings on the squad," he stated.

With the best crop of rookies seen in a long time, some veterans will be hard-pressed to retain their posts. Four goalies will be out, including holdovers Rocky Martin and Dan Fournier. A surprise at this spot could be Jim Corsi, the Pierrefonds Midget star who spurned scholarship offers from Northeastern and Notre Dame to come to Loyola.

Defense, always a trademark of Draper-coached teams, will again be strong with three starters back, Larry Carrière, Steve Sly, and Ron Clarke. Bill McNally, a former captain of Cornwall Royals who played the last two years for National finalist St. Mary's University Huskies, has transferred and appears set as the replacement for the departed Doyle. Six other hopefuls will battle for the remaining two spots.

Centre ice, the position hardest hit with the loss of Hayes and Hutton, will see three returnees and five rookies going for four positions. Vets Nick Haramis, Ken MacDonald, and Jim Sunstrum will get plenty of competition from Doug Lynch of Renfrew Lions, Mike Culleton of Pembroke Lumber Kings, Dave Henderson of West Island Flyers, and Bob Chomick of Noranda Aces. Lynch, avidly sought after by Tom Watt of the Toronto Varsity Blues, could be the sleeper of the whole camp.

Left wing is very solid, with the likes of Ron Riley, Pat McCool, just returned from two weeks at Rochester Americans camp, Grant Bennett, Steve Benoit, Jack Surbey, and newcomer Gary Herrington of Cornwall Royals.

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The right side will see the most new faces in the lineup, new to Loyola but certainly not to the local hockey scene. Most prominent among these are Wes Wiseman of Verdun Maple Leafs, Mike Relihan from Rosemount Nationals, Danny McCann of the Varsity Blues, and West Island Flyers grads, captain Dave Brandt, Jim Donnelly, and Roger McPhee. Pierre Cournoyer of St. Hyacinthe Gaulois and Donnie Morris of Alexandria Junior "B"'s will also merit attention.

The new Quebec college league, composed of Loyola, Sir George, McGill, Montreal, Laval, Three Rivers, Sherbrooke, Bishop's, and R.M.C., is expected to be much better balanced this season, with the most improved clubs being Sir George and Three Rivers. The nine-team Quebec University Athletic Association will play a 24 - game schedule.

Loyola will open its 36 game schedule on Friday, October 22, with the annual game against the Alumni. Highlight of the season will again be the Hockey Canada Tournament during Christmas, and a game against the Canada Student National Team December 23 at Loyola.